Bud's copy

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2000

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

As of April 1, I joined that elite group of seniors known as retirees. My older brother tells me that this means that I am now a ward of the state.

Let me assure you that the Titusville Amateur Radio Club will continue to hold monthly as well as impromptu test sessions as needed at the facilities of Expedient Services. I will maintain an office at Expedient Services and from there we will continue to assist any one who wishes to acquire any class of amateur radio license. My new office is in Building Number 2 and is in the same area as the classroom which is located in the East end of the building.

The TARC Test team now has 48 upgrades to process to the FCC on 4/15/00. Most of the applicants have submitted the necessary upgrade paper work and will not have to be in attendance for the "processing" of their upgrade. The Exam team now has the new questions for examinations for all three classes of license effective 4/15/00.

We are saddened to hear of the passing of Clyde Lee's brother-in-law, Roy Hughes who lived in Spartanburg, SC. Clyde and Becky have just returned home after attending the funeral of Mr. Hughes. Our thoughts are with the family and friends in the loss of this loved one.

Ken Nadell, KU4LJ joined the Silent Keys just over three weeks ago. Ken was a member of TARC and had just moved to Michigan with his daughter. Ken was truly an inspiration to me and to others who knew him. TARC and I will miss Ken. The club extends our sympathy to the family and friends.

Preparations for this year's Field Day activities have made great strides. We are looking forward to having a good time at the Northern Outpost belonging to Wynn, WB4ZUY and Theresa, WB4ZUZ. We will talk more about Field Day later.

Hope to see you at the April Club meeting.
73's

GROWING OLD

>You know you're old when it takes longer to rest than to get tired.

>Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.

>Someone described heaven as a family reunion that never ends. What could hell possibly be like? Home videos of the same reunion?

>Laughing helps - it's like jogging on the inside.

>It's hard to be nostalgic when you can't remember anything.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

APR 1 KB4CAR JEAN YOUNG
APR 2 KB4GK JOHN MUNSEY
APR 2 KE4MFW WALLY GENTRY
APR 3 AA4FY NORM FOSTER
APR 4 KC4VMP JIM CLARK
APR 6 KS4BD DARWIN McCOMBS
APR 6 KD4WLE SEAN HAGA
APR 7 KD4PUT FLORENCE WILSON
APR 8 KF4FEY PENNY COPELAND
APR 8 KE4HDF ANGIE DIMEO
APR 10 KF4UN DAVE POST
APR 10 KC4VWA ETHEL GRINER
APR 13 KF4LUA GWEN COLVIN
APR 13 KE4YQF MARY LORENZI
APR 23 W4BME JOHN LINK
APR 30 KB4RBU VERN BAUER

LEARNING ITU PHONETICS: A SHORT STORY

By Paul A. Rauth

I wrote the following story when I was getting back into Ham Radio and needed to relearn the phonetic alphabet.

One obscure night in (Lima), during the month of (November),)Romeo and (Juliet) were staying at the (hotel). They were waiting for (Papa) to arrive. As they waited they sipped a little (whiskey). Their friends, (Charlie), (Mike) and (Oscar), had been playing (Golf) in the afternoon. (Mike), a member of the (Zulu) Nation in Southeastern Africa, had a good round and was declared the (victor). (Oscar), the Canadian from (Quebec) came in second. (Charlie), a rather shady character, broke his arm trying to get out of the rough. He went to the hospital to have an (X-ray).

Meanwhile, a (Yankee) in (uniform) was in the ballroom dancing the (foxtrot) and (tango). He had just received a tip on a drug shipment that probably weighted a (kilo).

(Papa) finally arrived after a long trip from (India). (Papa) was a nuclear physicist specializing in (alpha) particles. He announced he was going to the United States and would fly (Delta) Airlines to vacation in the (Sierra) Nevada Mountains.

The story ends happily as the (Yankee) in (uniform) caught (Charlie) trying to smuggle the (kilo) of drugs in his arm cast. The resounding (echo), as all said (bravo), could be heard throughout the (hotel). The end.

(Ed. Note) The above story was send in by KB2ZLH, Judy Smith.

ARISS CREWS GET INITIAL HAM GEAR TRAINING

From 3/00 CyberSKIP

The first International Space Station expedition crew and its backup crew have received some initial training on the use of the initial US-provided Amateur Radio gear to be installed as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, or ARISS, effort. The session was conducted at Russia's Gagarin Cosmonauts Training Centre.

As part of the ARISS training effort, NASA's Matt Bordelon, KC5BTL, is preparing a consolidated schedule for training in the US and in Russia that will include familiarization with equipment, packet theory and hands-on training, using a hardware mockup, and simulation. Training will focus on general principles of ham radio as well as preparations to use ham radio,

equipment types and operating modes, and general packet module information and software.

Bordelon has held an initial training session with astronauts and cosmonauts that provided exposure to the actual hardware. Other training has included the information required to obtain an US Amateur Radio license. The first ISS crew includes US astronaut Bill Shepherd, KD5GSL, and Russian Cosmonauts Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, and the recently licensed Yuri Gaidzenko, whose call sign was not available. *Carolynn Conley, NASA*

SOME RECENT SHUTTLE PHOTOS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING

From 3/30 CyberSKIP

As you read this, the Space Shuttle Endeavor may be snapping radar photos of your backyard as part of a project to create the most-detailed and accurate topographic maps of the Earth ever. (To be in the frame, however, your own piece of the planet would have to be located somewhere in a band around the globe stretching from about Anchorage, Alaska, in the north to the southern tip of South America.) The Shuttle Radar Topography Mission that is the focus of mission STS-99 (http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/shuttle/), which launched Feb. 11, has already captured data for more than 75 percent of the target areas, taking stereoscopic readings of the surface whenever the spacecraft is over land. The signals are being captured at rates totaling 270 megabits per second to form the two-part images and will generate enough data to fill 15,000 regular CD-ROMs when complete. Experts say the maps that can be made based on the new data could be as much as 30 times more accurate than the best global maps in use today. But the resulting images are pretty, too, and samples are already available for viewing - and downloading - on the Web site of the German Aerospace Center, a mission partner. (head's up: The high-resolutions versions can be downloads of seven megabytes or more.) \World Wide Web: **http://www.dfd.dir.de/srtm/**

DC CURRENTS

by Steve Mansfield, N1MZA
Manager, Legislative & Public Affairs
From QST 3/00

NINE STATAES PROPOSE BANS ON CELL PHONE USE WHILE DRIVING

Would amateur mobile operation be affected by bills in nine state legislatures proposing to ban the use of a cellular telephone while operating a motor vehicle? In at least two states (Arizona and Colorado) it might be, although it's too early in the year to determine just what chance those bills have of passing, and if passed, whether the courts would interpret the prohibitions to include Amateur Radio.

At least 17 bills were introduced last year in response to concerns about the rising number of accidents involving motorists distracted by using cellular phones. So far, no state legislature has pushed one all the way through to the governor's desk, but there were at least two bans enacted in municipalities. According to news reports, Hilltown, Pennsylvania passed a prohibition after a driver using a cell phone ran a stop sign and killed a two-year-old girl in the resulting accident. The bill was modeled after an ordinance passed earlier by the Cleveland suburb of Brooklyn, Ohio. The City Council of Aspen, Colorado has also discussed a ban. The New York State Taxi and Limousine Commission has banned taxi drivers from using phones while driving passengers. *De facto* bans exist in at least eight countries, including Switzerland, Spain, Australia (Victoria and New South Wales), Israel, Italy, Singapore, France and Sweden. However, some of these rules have more to do with "both hands on the wheel at all times" than with specific bans on cell phone operation.

While such bills have been introduced regularly since at least 1995, the possibility of backlash from the approximately 140 million cell phone subscribers tends to dampen lawmaker enthusiasm. Even so, the cellular industry seems to sense certain straws in the wind and is hedging

its bets by focusing on "safe" use of cellular in automobiles (i.e. pull over to talk), and may well use the issue to promote "hands free" phones. If there is any hard-nosed lobbying going on, it's confined to the back rooms so far.

Are such bills needed? A number of empirical studies have suggested that there may be a link between cell phone usage by drivers and motor vehicle accidents, but few have concluded that the solution is legislative restriction. A California Highway Patrol report, for example, determined, among other things, that "enacting more laws may not discourage some drivers from using their cellular telephones while driving, just as laws do not deter some drivers from speeding or engaging in other unsafe driving practices." A report by The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration stated that driving while using a cell phone probably is hazardous, but wouldn't speculate how great the risk was, nor what other mitigating factors might be involved. The report encouraged better data collection, more 'hands free' phones and increased driver safety education through government and industry. That seems to be the direction the industry is taking as well.

If any of these bills are going to pass, there will be a number of issues to be sorted out by state legislators. For example, how much of the problem is caused by inattentive driving rather than the use of a particular device? And, with such vast numbers of cellular and PCS subscribers, will the new law be essentially unenforceable? Might there be potential conflicts between local, state and federal policies of the sort that have sprung up over commercial antenna and tower siting? Finally, just what would those bills ban? Mobile ham radio? Dashboard radio receivers? After-market equipment? Use of radio dispatch by delivery trucks, cabs and other commercial radio users?

As with other new areas of telecommunications law, while enthusiasm is high, momentum may be a bit slow as well-intentioned law makers try to determine whether the solution to an apparent growing problem can better be addressed by education, legislation or technology.

THE DOCTOR IS IN
From 3 & 4/00 QST

Q. John, K2CF, asks, "Sometimes on 10 or 15 meters I can make contact with stations that are 300 to 400 miles away. We can communicate, although we both report weak signals. The distance seems to be too great for so-called 'ground wave' propagation, and these stations are definitely in the skip zone, which would seem to preclude normal ionospheric propagation. Is there another mechanism involved?"

A. The most likely explanation is that you are working them on what is known as 'backscatter.' Within the skip zone a small amount of RF is scattered off the ionosphere itself, or from irregular ground at an intermediate reflection point within the zone. The levels are usually such that 100-W stations can just hear each other. Occasionally, you may also encounter situations where a sporadic-E cloud of intense ionization is located somewhere between you and another station within the skip zone. This cloud can reflect signals, creating what is known in amateur circles as "short skip."

Q. W. J. Stanley, W4RDG, asks, "My friends and I have been trying to apply crackle-finish paint to aluminum and steel panels, but with unsatisfactory results. Do you know of any method for producing a high quality crackle paint finish that does not require the use of expensive equipment?"

A. Getting a good crackle finish is a two-step process with an interesting twist: (1) Spray the metal with a thin coating of zinc chromate primer. Apply the yellowish primer in an almost transparent layer and allow it to dry for at least an hour. (2) Buy or borrow an infrared heat lamp for the next step. Spray on the crackle finish paint, following the instructions on the can. Position the lamp about 2 feet from the painted surface and apply heat for two or three minutes. The paint should start to crinkle right before your eyes. Be careful not to overheat the metal, though. This technique takes some practice to perfect I'd

suggest that you experiment on metal scraps until you get the hang of it.

CARE FOR RECHARGABLE NiCd BATTERY PACKS OR CELLS

Always charge batteries prior to use. Read the equipment manual designed specifically for charging instructions.

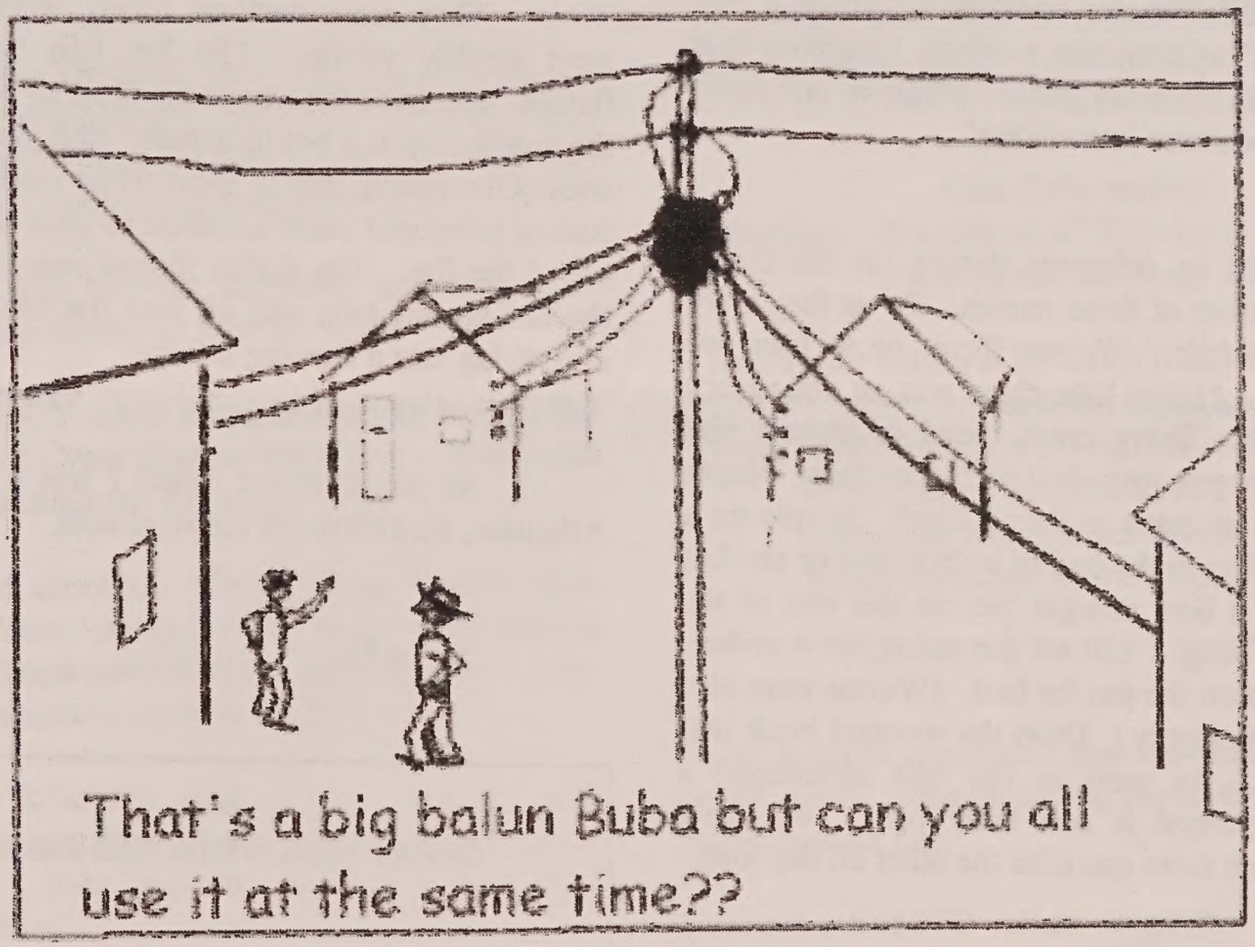
When batteries are not in use for an extended period of time, remove from equipment and store in a cool and dry environment

Do not expose your battery to moisture or rain.

Do not short circuit battery terminals. Some batteries and/or battery packs are protected with internal self-resetting fuses, but a shorted circuit may still cause severe damage to the battery pack.

Do not drop, hit or abuse the battery pack in any way. There may be the possibility that it will break and release electrolyte, as well as, expose cell contents which are corrosive.

Do not incinerate or dispose of battery in fire. The battery may rupture or explode if exposed to fire.



DRAWN AND SUBMITTED BY DAVE, NB5EM

ABELL'S ANECDOTES

By Pike W4EPU

Lets talk about the proverbial CRAYFISH. You know, that small fresh water crustacean critter that looks like a tiny lobster. Or, those things your friends and relatives in Louisiana try to get you to eat when you visit them.

You may prefer to spell it CRAWFISH. Both spellings are acceptable. However one dictionary definition for crawfish is "To back out, or to retreat". Using that analogy, I suppose in a football game when the offense advances one could say that the defense 'crawfishes".....

Back in Arkansas during my childhood we used neither of those names. To us they were simply crawdads. We ate them, or at least we almost did. At that time there was an abundance of crawdads. Every creek, pond or stream was crawling (no pun intended) with crawdads. People could catch as many as they wished. Simply tie a piece of string to the end of a stick five or six feet long. Tie a bent straight pin on the end of the string and hang a nail on the string for a sinker. Put a worm on the pin for bait. (Worms were also in abundant supply.) Drop the wormed hook into the water. As soon as the bait submerged a crawdad grabbed it and hung on. You could usually catch them one after the other all day long.

We had always heard that crawdad tails were tasty. My brothers and I begged our mother to cook some for us but she would have no part of it. She finally gave in but would not cook them in the house. She told us that if we would catch and clean them, build a fire on the creek bank she would fry them over the open fire.

We caught fifty or more nice big ones. We pulled off the tails, shelled them and washed them real good in the creek. (That was OK. The creek was spring fed.) We built a nice fire. The house being only a couple of hundred yards away, she saw the fire and came down to the creek with a cast-iron skillet full of pure lard. She pushed back the still flaming wood and made a nice bed of coals on which she placed the skillet full of lard. The lard melted down and heated up perfectly. On her command we dumped the pan full of crawdad tails into the hot grease.

They were cooking nicely when things went terribly wrong. The hot lard burst into flames. She tried to retrieve the flaming skillet but the handle was too hot to handle. She picked up a stick (One which, only a short while earlier was a fishing pole) and made an effort to push the skillet out of the fire. The skillet flipped over, dumping the hot grease, tails and all into the fire, turning everything into a flaming inferno.

As stated above, when I was a child in Arkansas, we almost ate crawdad tails.

73s es 88s

GREAT MINDS DISCUSS IDEAS

AVERAGE MINDS DISCUSS EVENTS

SMALL MINDS DISCUSS PEOPLE

TREASURERS REPORT

By Becky Lee, KF4HTB

Balance forward from 1999	$4333.03
Deposits Year to Date	1316.19
TOTAL INCOME	**$5649.22**
Expenditures	919.71
BALANCE AS AT 3/31/00	**$4729.51**

MARCH MINUTES

By Becky, KF4HTB

The opening ceremonies included the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silent remembrance, introduction of members and guests and W2SDB Bill Epley's "Harmonica Happy Birthday".

Bud, K4CWG told the attendees that 19 people took upgrade exams on Monday night.

Ozzie, N4SCY asked for volunteers to help at the April 8 Red Cross Century Bike Tour. They need help in manning the rest stops.

Jeff talked about the May 7 Cross Florida Bike Ride. Money raised at this event goes toward buying helmets and Christmas gifts for kids. They need volunteers to work rest stops, etc.

Anthony, KG4CEB said that he has 10 cots donated by the Red Cross for use in emergency situations. They also may be used during Field Day activities.

Bud talked about Field Day (June 25, 26). The site, which is just off County Line Ditch Rd., is primitive. No commercial electricity, etc. Contact Bud for exact directions. Stephanie, K4MVO, said that she is taking pictures during the Field Day exercise, and will try to get them published somewhere.

Club Officers

President: Bud Hughes, K4CWG. 267-3450
V.Pres: Ozzie Osband, N4SCY. 407-LIFTOFF
Sec/Treas: Becky Lee, KF4HTB, 267-9375

Elected Board Members

Ken Denman, KD4HNW. 269-5711
John Renninger, KE4ZPA. 267-9431
Grant Hahne, KF4IGK. 269-6484
Sherry Hughes, KU4ZO. 269-0779

Repeater Custodian Board Members

Les Griner, K4SJC (146.91) 267-1565
Warren Murray, W4CEL (146.97) 638-5476
Dave McLean, WB4SIG (444.15) 267-6181
Larry Carr, WB9MFJ (Packet-Rose Node) 268-4114

Club Information

Meetings: Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs. at Jaycee Building

Newsletter Editors: KF4HTB Becky Lee
K4EOS Clyde Lee

Nets: **VIP**-Thursdays at 1000 hrs. 146.910
Friendship-Thursdays at 1830 hrs. 146.910
Mosquito-Wednesdays at 1900 hrs. 28.333
Traders-Fridays at 2000 hrs 146.910

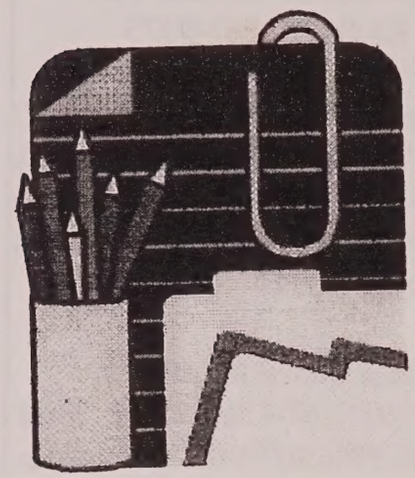
Clyde, K4EOS announced that Les needs a 3 amp power supply. Anyone having one to donate or sell should contact Les.

Stephanie, K4MVO talked about the Governors Conference on May 23, and suggested that if someone wanted to attend the training session, that perhaps the club would subsidize part of the expenses.

Bud told of the death of member Ken Nadell, KF4LJ.

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P. O. BOX 73
TITUSVILLE FL 32781-0073

April 2000



TAX TIME!!!!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
Total membership: 228 (156 regular, 54 family, 12 honorary, 6 other)

NEW MEMBERS: K5UNT MAL HARPER
RENEWALS: KE4AEB JO JORDAN
KE4MXF KAY JORDAN
N4AWX BRIAN VAN ALSTINE
KC4WZA JANET VAN ALSTINE
N2CTQ LOU GENCORELLI
M2USO MARIE GENCORELLI
WB4DXD BUCK TOMLINSON
KF4JI CARL CHRISTIAN
W0LRC COFFEE COFFMAN
KE4GV CHARMAIN COFFMAN
AF4N WES WHITLEY
KE4EJ SANDY WHITLEY
W8OFR GENE HALL
KB4RBU VERN BAUER
K0RPM RON MORGAN
K2TNT GEORGE FISHER
KF4UN DAVE POST
N4WIN WALT FOSTER
NE4XT BILL DIMEO
KE4HDF ANGIE DIMEO
KR4YX CHARLES FAGEL

K4ATD

HAMFESTS

4/15	MIAMI
4/15	TAMPA
7/21-22	MILTON
8/26	FT. PIERCE
9/2-3	MELBOURNE
10/14	TAMPA
10/13-14	STARKE
10/14	SUNRISE
10/14-15	W.PALM BEACH